

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 5,412,533 to Murayama et al taken with Applicants' admitted prior art (pages 2-4 of the specification) and U.S. Patent 5,483,415 to Nakamura et al, further in view of U.S. Patent 4,499,520 to Cichanowski. Claims 12-14 were also rejected over the same prior art, further in view of U.S. Patent 5,117,332 to Kudoh et al.

In response, claims 6 and 8-14 have been canceled, to thereby obviate the rejection.

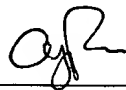
Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested as placing this case in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 29-36 (indicated as being allowed in the Office Action dated November 18, 2003) is respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Abraham J. Rosner
Registration No. 33,276

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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